

AUG 29 2006

REMARKS

The above-identified application is United States application serial number 10/721,627 filed on November 25, 2003. Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Claims 14-28 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 29, 30, 32 are rejected. Claims 3, 31 and 33-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-11 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashi (U.S. Patent No. 4,901,204). Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include limitations of Claim 3 which the Examiner has identified as objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, and 4 are allowable after amendment to Claim 1 at least on the basis of allowability of Claim 1. Applicants have amended Claim 7 to include limitations of Claim 31 which the Examiner has identified as objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants have also amended Claims 8-10 to make consistent with the amendment to Claim 7. Accordingly, Claims 7-11 are allowable after amendment to Claim 7 at least on the basis of allowability of Claim 7. Claim 21 was previously canceled.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 29, 30, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi (U.S. Patent No. 4,901,204) in view of Ahern (U.S. Patent No. 6,578,101) and Hileman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,259,783). Claims 5, 6, and 29 depend from amended Claim 1 and Claims 12, 13, 30, and 32 depend from amended Claim 7 so that the claims distinguish over the references at least on the basis that amended Claim 1 distinguishes over the references.


Allowable Claims

Applicants have rewritten claims objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim as suggested so that all remaining claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

The application, including remaining Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 29, 30, and 32-35, are believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at (949) 251-0250.

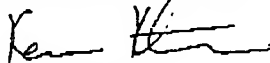
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, Central Number at (371) 273-8300 on the date shown below:

  
(Signature)

Ken J. Koestner  
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August 29, 2006  
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,

  
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